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Development of interest in worthwhile cultural activities has been one of the important emphases of the Higher Horizons program. The cultural enrichment teacher has had the responsibility for teaching music and/or art in addition to correlating cultural activities with all facets of the curriculum to provide inspiration and new experiences as well as to reinforce the cultural background and heritage of all groups.

The cultural enrichment program has attracted the interests and efforts of community groups and of a countless number of volunteers, thus enabling the children to enjoy inexpensive or free cultural centers and professional productions. "Town Hall Theatre for Children" was one such community activity publicized and coordinated through the schools. The heightened interest of teachers, children, and parents helped to vary the presentation over the years. Town hall productions have included pantomime, ballet, drama, opera, and comedy, and children have the opportunity to meet performers in full costume and makeup.

Another cultural program was Young Abe Lincoln produced by the Little Golden Theatre and performed for children of Higher Horizons schools. The Brooklyn Academy of Music provided many students with an introduction to opera. Plays produced by the Jewish Theatre for Children have given Higher Horizon students an opportunity to learn about the culture, religion, history, and folk-lore of the Jewish people.

All of these activities are representative of the kinds of resources which have indicated a willingness to participate in the education of youth.

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HIGHER HORIZONS BOARD OF EDUCATION CITY OF NEW YORK

TOWARD AN ENRICHED CULTURAL FUTURE

Development of interest in worthwhile cultural activities has been one of the important emphases of the Higher Horizons program. This and other emphases are inherent in the general framework for special Higher Horizons positions developed and refined over the years. Thus the "Cultural Enrichment Teacher" has had the responsibility for teaching Music and/or Art in addition to correlating cultural activities with all facets of the curriculum to provide inspiration and new experiences as well as to reenforce the cultural background and heritage of all groups. This area of emphasis has an established place in the curriculum and is important to the school in developing children's talents and aesthetic interests, and the interest of the community.

The use of community resources to enrich the instructional program is not new. The extent of their use, however, has been augmented through the program, and other techniques, involving parents and community agencies have been developed.

Needless to say, the extent to which any one school participates in such programs is at the discretion of the principal and the District Assistant Superintendent. As with every teaching approach, this type of enrichment requires on-going interpretation for maximum effectiveness.

The cultural enrichment program has attracted the interests and efforts of community groups and of a countless number of volunteers, thus enabling the children to enjoy free and inexpensive cultural centers and professional productions.

Among the first to make worthwhile children's entertainment available to Higher Horizons students was Town Hall, during the 1960-61 school year. Dr. Ormond Drake, the director, establisned a realistic group admission fee for schools participating in the program; parents and siblings of the children were invited at the same price. Thus "Family Day" at Town Hall became a reality and an effective means of promoting family outings. For adults accompanying school groups admission was free.

Higher Horizons cooperated with Town Hall in planning a program for school involvement. "Town Hall Theatre for Children" was publicized and ticket distribution coordinated with the schools. The heightened interest of teachers, children, and parents helped to vary the presentations over the years. The children have seen pantomime, ballet, drama, opera, and comedy and have met the performers in full costume and makeup. The "Operas-in-Brief" have been well attended by students. A resume of each opera and a discussion plan are prepared for teachers for pre-planning and follow-up, making the experience part of the instructional program.

Recently, Dr. Ormond Drake, director of Town Hall and associate dean of New York University's Division of General Education received a citation from Mayor Wagner. It was awarded in recognition of his "distinguished and exceptional service" to the City's cultural and musical life. Part of the citation made special note of his success in "encouraging among the young the development of dramatic, artistic, and musical attainment." Dr. Drake can be justifiably proud of this award and of his part in opening for many children new avenues of approach to the enjoyment of worthwhile cultural entertainment.

Other programs were initiated and developed as a result of contacts made by the Higher Horizons office for the purpose of bringing cultural resources into the school as well as arranging for students to move into the mainstream of the cultural life of our city. The school then takes an active part in developing social and cultural activities and in guiding children in their use.

Just such a contact culminated in the presentation of six free performances of Young Abe Lincoln to children in Higher Horizons schools in March 1961. This play, produced by The Little Golden Theatre, was scheduled to open to paying audiences during Easter week. To insure the suitability of material for young audiences, two professional members of the staffs of Higher Horizons and BAVI, an esteemed ally in many ventures, listened to a reading of the play prior to the performance. Their comments and evaluations regarding actions, dialogue, and songs were honored by the producer and the actors. Thus an opportunity to see a truly professional production was made available to our children, and for many it was a "first-time" experience. The additional benefits were intrinsic - a cultural enrichment activity which reenforced the curriculum and extended the experiential background of the students.

The introduction of the opera to many of our students, (in non-Higher Horizons as well as in Higher Horizons schools), was the result of a program developed by Higher Horizons with the Brooklyn Academy of Music and with BAVI. This provided for the attendance of children from public and parochial schools at all levels at the final dress rehearsal of several operas. Prices were reduced and graded for maximum participation and consequently the response to this activity was always enthusiastic. Publicity to the schools was handled by the Higher Horizons office, by the Academy, and through BAVI's "Invitations." To facilitate school involvement the Higher Horizons office coordinated the selling and distribution of tickets as well as the seating arrangements. Since 1962 thousands of our children have seen Carmen, La Boheme, Pagliacci, Madame Butterfly, and Die Fledermaus. Teachers have been most gratified with this program and have returned in successive years with their new students. An interesting outgrowth has been the attendance by some children from the Homebound Instruction program. One of

their teachers, Mrs. Martha Dyner, perceiving the value of these performances socially as well as culturally, successfully interested teachers, parents, and children. Mr. Richard Kirschner, of the Brooklyn Academy has cooperated generously by supplying free tickets to children in this particular group who cannot pay.

In addition to the opera program the Brooklyn Academy of Music has allowed special rates for Higher Horizons students for the Saturday afternoon performances of movies, ballets, and children's plays. This program is coordinated by the schools which participate. Mr. William Martin, director of the Brooklyn Academy of Music, has provided on-going direction and encouragement during the past four years and has won the appreciation of all.

Several successive Sundays during each of the past three years children in Higher Horizons schools and their teachers and parents have enjoyed the productions of the Jewish Theatre for Children. Dr. Samuel Citron, the director, and the Board of Directors of the Theatre have generously granted free admission for Higher Horizons groups since 1961 although the usual arrangements for attendance are to apply for group membership and paid reservations.

On those occasions our students saw beautifully staged, smoothly performed, and delightfully written plays. They had an opportunity to learn about the culture, religion, history, and folk-lore of the Jewish people in settings which authentically duplicated many situations and rituals. Understanding and appreciation of the Judaic traditions were thus fostered among many of our children and insights were developed regarding the rich heritage which has been passed on from the earliest days of recorded history and regarding the need to understand all peoples.

Dr. Samuel Citron has become a respected friend of all in the Higher Horizons program who have come to know him. His interest in children is sincere and consistent.

Reduced rates for concerts have also been provided by the Hunter College Concert Bureau under the direction of Mr. Norman Singer. Our students have participated in programs featuring choir groups, ensembles, young singers, dancers, and musicians of Greece and Korea, chamber music of France, and a reading of French poetry. These truly worthwhile activities are another indication of the various types of entertainment made available to our young people by those who are aware of the benefits which accrue from cultural enrichment.

Throughout the city there has developed an active awareness of the need for providing blocks of free tickets in order to include more children in various activities. This has become the policy for several organizations so that during each school year certain events occur on a regular basis. This makes for smoother coordination and wider participation by our students.

A special vote of thanks is due the many people who have made such activities possible.....

Mr. Simon Asen of the Cosmopolitan Young Peoples Symphony Orchestra has been exceedingly generous in giving a large number of Higher Horizons students tickets for three free concerts a year at Carnegie Hall. More recently, local churches and community colleges have opened their facilities for performances of the same concerts the day before the formal presentations. Those children and their families who were unable to attend Carnegie Hall have been invited to participate in the local performances which have so far included three boroughs, Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx.

The students were particularly impressed with the accomplishments of the youthful members of the orchestra and the young guest soloists. These performances have always been truly inspirational and our children have come to look forward to each succeeding concert. Mr. Asen has indicated his faith in young people by encouraging talent; he has provided inspiration and entertainment for school children whose everlasting appreciation will be his.

Many of our junior and senior high school students have attended Sunday afternoon concerts at Town Hall through the courtesy of Mr. Joseph Eger of the New York Orchestral Society.

Usually the concert was developed around an important theme so that the students were aware of the role of music in commemorating or celebrating special events. They attended a musical salute to the World's Fair and on another occasion participated in a tribute to the memory of our late President, John F. Kennedy.

Perhaps the outstanding contribution is the inspiration the students receive when they see talented young instrumentalists providing them with rich musical experiences.

The Little Orchestra Society under the musical direction of Thomas Scherman has provided free tickets to Saturday morning concerts at Hunter College for many of our elementary school children during the past two seasons. They had the benefit of Dr. Scherman's interesting commentary and saw many outstanding guest performers including Lisa Weil, a children's ballet troupe from the Metropolitan Opera Ballet School, and the Baird Marionettes. In addition to enjoying a rich cultural experiences,the children were able to visit one of our city colleges.

Cantata, oratorio and other terms familiar to aficionados of fine music became part of the vocabulary of those of our children who attended concerts at Town Hall which were sponsored by Amor Artis and by Mr. Milton Goldin. For our students these special occasions were an enrichment of school activities with classical music.

The programs, under the direction of Johannes Somary, were indeed complete musical experiences as choristers and soloists combined with the orchestra in the presentation of works such as Handel's "Solomon" and Bach's "Cantata No. 21."

Higher Horizons students were included in many other special events through the courtesy and consideration of benefactors who wanted to make a contribution to their cultural development.

Listed below are some of these benefactors to whom deep appreciation is extended for their interest, cooperation, and understanding.

Mr. Richard Seader and Mr. George Bonyai of the Henry Miller Theatre for free opening night tickets to The White House and P.S. I Love You. Additional tickets were made available for other evenings.

Marechal Productions for reduced rates to In White America at the Sheridan Square Playhouse.

Mr. Gerald Klot, principal of the De Witt Clinton Youth and Adult Center for alerting us to special performances of interest to our students. These included dance recitals, opera performances, and concerts.

The Columbia College Citizenship Council and the young men and women of Columbia and Barnard Colleges who have arranged to include our students in special events such as the production of Patience, and the Spanish Club's presentation of La Sabila Cassandra as well as tours of the campus.

Of special note is the concert arranged especially for our students by Mike Cohen and the Columbia College Band on April 24, during the Easter recess. This and the foregoing activities are indicative of the special commitment these young people feel to our students who will, hopefully, follow in their footsteps.

Mrs. Sunna Rasch and Poetry in 3-D produced under her direction. The showcase performance at P.S. 289 K on January 7 was a Delightful, Dynamic, and Different experience in poetry for the children of that school and neighboring schools. Mrs. Rasch and her players gave a "concert in poetry" which sparked the enthusiasm of teachers and pupils alike. It represents a novel approach to this facet of Language Arts and gives it a new dimension.

A most worthy contribution of time and talent was made by Dr. Joanne Reynolds of Brooklyn College during her recent tour of several Higher Horizons elementary schools. Dr. Reynolds, as a supervisor of student teachers, has had occasion to visit many schools. She developed the idea with teachers of spending some time with individual classes, singing and playing the guitar. Among these schools were P.S. 289 K and P.S. 68 M.

As an outgrowth of her interest and enthusiasm, Dr. Reynolds wrote to Higher Horizons and offered to expand this program to other schools. Plans were made for morning and afternoon visits when she was relatively free in April and May.

The result was a delightful whirlwind of visits to Brooklyn and Queens Higher Horizons schools which were selected because of their proximity to either Brooklyn College or Dr. Reynold's home.

Quotations from teachers and children describe best the reactions to her performances. One program teacher wrote "I cannot tell you who appreciated her the most - the children, teachers or supervisors. She adapted her music to just the right level of our children's interests."

From the children in the same school came these comments directed to Dr. Reynolds. "I liked when the children acted out one of the songs. I wish I could learn as many songs as you can."; "I liked the way you sang the songs."

This paragraph from a letter sums up the total reaction. "The children loved her. They kept coming to me....to tell me how much they had enjoyed her singing, her playing, the choice of songs, and their own participation. She sings beautifully. Her manner with the children is warm, friendly, and enthusiastic. She was a huge success."

As a trainer of teachers, Dr. Reynolds cannot help but impart these vital qualities to student teachers who will find them most necessary when they assume the roles for which they are being prepared. She has the appreciation and gratitude of everyone concerned with the program.

The activities cited above are representative of the kinds of resources that are present in our vast and wonderful city and which have responded to a demonstrated need. They have thus indicated a willingness to take part in the education of our youth, and so to promote satisfying use of the greater leisure time which technology promises us.

In any case, as we educate the minds of children we demonstrate a concern for their cultural and social traits as well as for the tools and skills which will foster academic proficiency....for the excitement and sense of immediacy created by skillful artists can inspire the budding creativity of some children, attune the tastes of others to new cultural experiences, and foster shared reactions among the student audience which will develop thinking, critical citizens.